World Bank's assistance to private companies of Orissa

229. SHRI H.K. JAVARE GOWDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that World Bank, now funding power sector reforms in Orissa, is proposing its flow of funds to the private distribution companies instead of State Government;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the State Finance Minister is opposing such a proposal; and

(c) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) No Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Pension liabilities of Government

230. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have constituted a Working Group to review its pension liability over the short, medium term and assessment of liabilities in the future;

(b) if so, whether the Group has submitted its report, if so, the main recommendations thereof;

(c) how much time Government would take to examine/implement the recommendations; and

(d) whether Government intend to set up separate Group to assess the percentage of contribution required from employees so as to restrict its pension liabilities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Yes, Sir. Government of India had constituted a Working Group on "Assessment of Government of India's Pensionary Liability." The terms of reference of the Working Group included estimation of

likely expenditure on the pension of Government employees in the short/medium term.

(b) The Working Group has submitted its report in June, 2001. the Working Group has *inter-alia*, suggested the need to undertake sample surveys of selected parameters of existing pensioners and employees etc. The Working Group has also recommended a transition to a funded system of pension for new Government employees and system of incentives to encourage migration of existing employees to a funded system.

(c) and (d) Pursuant to Government's announcement in the Budget for 2001-2002 that the defined benefit Civil Services Pension System would be replaced by a new pension programme based on defined contributions, the Department of Pensions and Pensioners' Welfare has constituted a High Level Expert Group to prepare a road map for such a transition. A copy of the Working Group report has been forwarded to the said High Level Expert Group. Similarly, a Committee has been constituted by the Insurance Regulatory Development Authority to prepare a blue print for implementing pension reforms in the unorganised sector.

Multilateral Projects for Tripura

231. SHRI KHAGEN DAS: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any multilateral funding projects have been sanctioned exclusively for Tripura since its constitution as a State;

(b) whether Government of Tripura has submitted any project for multilateral funding; and

(c) if so, what is the progress with regard to provision of funding for these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir. The projects submitted by Government of Tripura for multilateral funding are:

- Tripura Irrigation Schemes and Flood Management Works Project.
- Integrated Forestry Development Project.
- Tripura Agricultural Development Project.